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(b) whether these residents have applied for alienation of the plots in their own names and with what result?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" (a) Hundred and eighty-seven.

" (b) The Adi-Dravida Progressive League, Sivarajapuram, and the Sivarajapuram Co-operative Credit Society applied for assignment of the lands (bearing R.S. Nos. 1735/7, 1735/132 and 1735/134 to 144 of Vepery) to the respective occupants. The question of transfer of the lands to the Harijan Welfare Department is being dealt with by the Collector of Madras and as soon as the lands have been transferred to the Harijan Welfare Department, action will be taken to assign the plots to the respective Harijan occupants."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Sir, whereas the question of alienation of these lands is being dealt with by the Collector of Madras, is it due to the general ban imposed by the Government on the alienation of land or is it due to any other reason? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" There is a Corporation school near the land that is sought to be taken over by the Government, and therefore, there is correspondence going on between the Collector of Madras and the Commissioner of the Corporation of Madras. I think it will be taken over by the Government shortly."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Is the Hon. Minister aware of the fact that there is a general ban on the alienation of *poramboke* lands in the City of Madras to anybody, even to the Harijan Welfare Department? If so, will the Government reconsider their decision and remove the general ban so that they may be alienated to landless poor people? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" This particular site is intended to be assigned to 187 Harijan families. Action is being taken to expedite the transfer of these lands from the Corporation to the Harijan Welfare Department and as soon as the transfer is completed, 187 Harijan families for whom they have been assigned will be given those sites."

Road from Vriddhachalam to Modappulli village.

* 1971 *Q.*—SRI A. GOVINDASWAMY NAYAGAR (on behalf of Sri M. Kattimuthu): Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that there were proposals with the South Arcot District Board during the years 1932–33 and 1933–34 for the construction of a road from Vriddhachalam to Modappulli village, and that the work was also entrusted to a contractor; and

(b) the reasons for giving up this work?

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI :—" (a) Yes, Sir.

" (b) This work along with several other road works had to be given up for want of funds."

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SRI A. GOVINDASWAMY NAYAGAR :—" விருத்தாசலத்திலிருந்து இருப்பு வழியாக மொடப்பள்ளி கிராமத்திற்கு ஒரு ரோடு போட வேண்டியது மிக மிக அவசியமாக இருப்பதினால் இந்த வேலையை இரண்டாவது ஐந்தாண்டுத் திட்டத்திலாவது சேர்த்து நிறைவேற்ற சர்க்கார் முயற்சி எடுப்பார்களா ?"

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI :—" இதற்கு ஜில்லா போர்டிலிருந்து முயற்சி வரவேண்டும்."

Tax concessions to the ex-ruler of Pudukkottai.

* 1972 *Q.*—SRI S. RAMALINGAM (on behalf of Sri M. Kalyanasundaram) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many cars are allowed to be owned by the ex-ruler of Pudukkottai tax-free; and

(*b*) with reference to answer given to clauses (*b*) and (*c*) of question No. 316 on 14th December 1954, in what other respects the ex-ruler is exempt from paying taxes due to the State Government and the local bodies?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) No limit is prescribed as to the number of cars that can be owned by His Highness the Raja of Pudukkottai tax-free. At present, he owns six motor vehicles, tax-free, including three cars.

" (*b*) Apart from the exemption from local taxation, details of which have already been given in answer to question No. 516 on 14th December 1954, the Raja is also exempted from payment of fees for driving licence and registration of motor vehicles. He is also exempted from the Indian Arms Rules, 1924 and is entitled to possess under proper licence free of charge the weapons which he was holding prior to merger."

Supply of firewood to the City.

* 1973 *Q.*—SRI N. K. PALANISAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state the steps taken by the Government to increase the supply of firewood to the City of Madras?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" As there is no control either over movement or price of firewood Government generally do not interfere with the trade. But consequent on certain reports that appeared in the press regarding shortage in the supply of wagons and consequential rise in prices, the Board of Revenue (Civil Supplies) was asked to look into this matter. The report received disclosed that during December 1954 there was a rise in price of junglewood in Madras City due to lack of wagon facilities for transport of firewood from certain railway stations in the Andhra State to the City. The Railway authorities, who were addressed in the matter, have issued instructions to the officers concerned to step up supply of wagons for movements of firewood to Madras. At present there are sufficient stocks of firewood in the City."